

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus of discovering and installing managed appliances remotely using a protocol for communication on the network is described. The protocol permits a client workstation to issue a broadcast message on the network. The managed appliances will send a reply message to the workstation which includes their current IP configuration. If a managed appliance has not been properly configured, the workstation can remotely instruct the managed appliance to set its IP configuration as desired. In the event that the managed appliance is a KVM switch, the managed appliance can store information about the servers connected to it. This information can be requested by and reported to the workstation using the protocol.